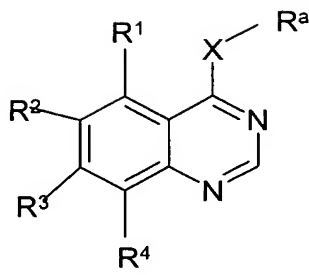


**Abstract**

The use of a compound of formula (I)

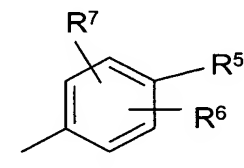


(I)

or a salt, ester or amide thereof;

where X is O, or S, S(O) or S(O)<sub>2</sub>, NH or NR<sup>8</sup> where R<sup>8</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

R<sup>a</sup> is a 3-quinoline group or a group of sub-formula (i)



(i)

where R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are various specific organic groups, in the preparation of a medicament for use in the inhibition of aurora 2 kinase.

Novel compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutical compositions useful in the treatment of cancer are also described and claimed.